GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1861
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
FOOD SECURITYAND ECONOMIC SLOW DOWN
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Security and slow down of economic growth were the two areas of concern that came up for discussion at the National Development Council's meeting on December 19, 2007;

(b) if so, the details of the food and economic growth scenario as projected therein;

(c) the response of the G-8 Summit thereto; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) & (b): National Development Council (NDC)'s meeting on 19th December, 2007 was held to consider and approve the draft Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-2012), where in high growth rate of the economy was noted. The Eleventh Five Year Plan has set a growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustained growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. In the meeting attention was also drawn to the impending problem of food security calling for productivity enhancement strategies.

(c): Last G-8 summit meeting was held in June 2007 in Germany, much before the NDC meeting mentioned in part (a) of the question.

(d): The Eleventh Plan strategy to enhance food security is based on i) enhancing production of rice, wheat and pulses by 20 million tonnes by the end of Eleventh Plan through National Food Security Mission launched in 2008 in selected districts ii) increasing allocation to the Agriculture and Allied Sectors, iii) increasing public expenditure on and strengthening agricultural research, iv) increasing irrigation facilities, v) focussing on natural resources management and watershed development in rainfed areas, vi) strengthening input and other support services, and vii) adjusting foodgrains management planning to the emerging requirements. The Eleventh Plan also mentions raising the growth rate of agricultural GDP to 4% per year in the Plan period from the current level of around 2% per year, strengthening of the Public Distribution System, rural development and poverty alleviation programmes including the programmes of wage employment, mid-day meals to the school children, etc as instruments to ensure food security.